

R E M A R K S

By this amendment, claim 1 is amended so as more clearly to define applicants' invention in view of the art cited by the examiner. The examiner's indication that claims 19 and 20 are allowed and that claims 11 and 12 are drawn to allowable subject matter is acknowledged with appreciation. A minor amendment is made to claim 19. New claim 26 is a combination of the subject matter of claims 1 and 11 and new claim 27 is the same as claim 12 with the dependency changed to claim 26. Therefore, claim 26 and 27 are believed allowable. The fee for any additional claims may be charged to deposit account 18-1837. Reconsideration of applicants' invention as defined in claims 1-12 and 21-27 is requested.

By the office action of January 18, 2005, the examiner rejected independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown et al. Brown et al. discloses a fuel burner wherein fuel oil passes through channel 28 and wherein its flow is constricted at port 44. The fuel oil is then mixed with an atomizing medium and discharged at a high velocity. The atomizer, as shown in Brown et al., would be inoperable in the paper making process wherein particulate matter flows through the innermost channel and must do so in an unobstructed manner to prevent clotting. Specifically, paper making material flowing through channel 28 of Brown et al. would clog the atomizer when it impinged atomizing member 42. In

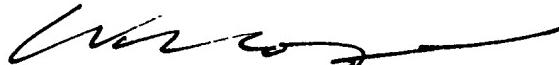
addition, high speed discharge of the material in the paper making process is undesirable because it would tear the paper.

By amended claim 1, applicants' atomizer is limited specifically to paper making and defines the innermost channel as being uniform in diameter from the inlet all the way to the outer end of the nozzle. By this means, the liquid flowing through the innermost nozzle flows in an unobstructed manner thereby preventing irregularities in the flow, including clogging of the channel. For these reasons, claim 1 is believed allowable.

Dependent claims 2-12 and 21- 25 are believed allowable because of their dependencies, either directly or indirectly, on claim 1 and because they define further specific features of applicants' invention.

From the above, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-12 and 21-27 are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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